AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating a bacterium which has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia,* wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of a DNA in cell of said bacterium, wherein said DNA codes for a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA comprises nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating a bacterium which has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia,* wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of a DNA in cell of said bacterium, wherein said DNA is ~~hybridizes~~ hybridized under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating an *Escherichia* bacterium which has been transformed with a mutant DNA, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein the mutant DNA is obtainable by mutating a DNA comprising nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1 and selecting a mutant DNA which, when transferred into a bacterium increases the homoserine resistance of the bacterium compared to the bacterium prior to receiving the transferred mutant DNA, and wherein the mutant DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

21. (New) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating a bacterium which has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia,* wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of a DNA in cell of said bacterium, wherein said DNA is derived from a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said DNA is hybridized under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

25. (New) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating an *Escherichia* bacterium which has been transformed with a mutant DNA, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein the mutant DNA is obtainable by mutating a DNA comprising nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1 and selecting a mutant DNA which, when transferred into a bacterium increases the homoserine resistance of the bacterium compared to the bacterium prior to receiving the transferred mutant DNA, wherein the mutant DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA is derived from a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*.

26. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 13 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 21-28 have been added.

The amendment of Claim 13 serves to correct an inadvertent typographical error and merely makes this claim grammatically proper. The amendment of Claim 17 is supported by page 10, line 16 to page 11, line 10 of the specification as originally filed. Support for Claims 21-28 is found in Claims 8-11 and the specification as originally filed. Support for the mutant DNA in Claim 25 is found in the specification on pages 9-10.

No new matter is added by these amendments.